In November 2014, Representatives Cheri Bustos and Aaron Schock were re-elected to the United States Congress, representing the 17th and 18th district of Illinois, respectively. In this assignment, you will identify and explain the advantages that Cheri Bustos and Aaron Schock, as incumbents, had in the 2014 Congressional Elections and present your findings in a two-page (minimum) double-spaced essay that uses Times New Roman size 12 font and 1-inch margins.

Specifically, your essay (at minimum) should contain a discussion of the following:

* Advertising
  + *How does Bustos/Schock make herself/himself known to their constituents?*
  + *How does Bustos/Schock employ technology to aid in advertising?*
* Credit Claiming
  + *How does Bustos/Schock use casework to perform services for their constituents?*
  + *How does Bustos/Schock use pork barrel spending to benefit their district?*
* Position Taking
  + *How does Bustos/Schock promote himself as experienced, hardworking, trustworthy, or having benefited their constituents and their district?*
  + *Select one issue from Bustos’/Schock’s website and summarize their position on this issue. How does their position on this issue appeal to voters in the 17th or 18th Congressional district?*
* Opponents
  + *Who was/were Bustos’/Schock’s opponent(s) in the 2014 Congressional election? Were they a strong opponent(s)? Why or why not?*
* Campaign Spending
  + *How much money did Bustos/Schock raise and spend in the 2014 election cycle?* 
    - *Who were some of the top contributors to their campaign?*
    - *How did they spend this money?*
  + *How much money did their opponent(s) raise?*

Please cite all sources used in your essay.

Make sure all data used is from the 2014 election

Helpful Resources:

* [Find Your Representative](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/)
* [Cheri Bustos' Website](http://bustos.house.gov/)
* [Aaron Schock's Website](http://schock.house.gov/)
* [Open Secrets - 17th District Election Overview](https://www.opensecrets.org/races/summary.php?id=IL17&cycle=2014)
* [Open Secrets – 18th Congressional District Election Overview](http://www.opensecrets.org/races/summary.php?id=IL18&cycle=2012)
* [Open Secrets - Cheri Bustos Overview](https://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/summary.php?cid=N00033390&cycle=2014)
* [Open Secrets – Aaron Schock Overview](http://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/summary.php?cid=N00029273)
* Research endorsements he received from newspapers such as *The Peoria Journal Star, The Springfield State Register, or The Chicago Tribune*
* Try to find information on social media – Check Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube

Grading:

* \_\_\_\_\_ / 30 points: Essay contains a thorough discussion of the minimum informational requirements and demonstrates understanding of each topic.
* \_\_\_\_\_ / 5 points: Sources used are reliable, current, and cited
* \_\_\_\_\_ / 5 points: Essay uses correct spelling and grammar